What is claimed is:

1.   A collaboration method effected through a peer-to-peer network, the method comprising:

5   a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

10   a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribute data, and, after distribution of data, informing remaining conferee

15   peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to

20   distribute data, the above processes being repeated until data distribution completes.

2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein in said mail sending step, said URL includes an HTML

25   file and said HTML file has an URL of said host peer for use in peer connection.

3.   The method according to claim 2, wherein in said mail sending step, said URL described on said electronic mail includes a URL of an Internet service provider that dynamically allocates IP

5 addresses, and said URL described on said HTML file is a temporary URL, for use in peer connection, allocated from said Internet service provider to said conference host peer.

10 4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein in said mail sending step, a specified time to start a conference and said URL are described on said electronic mail so that said conferee peers are kept on standby and activated at said specified time so

15 as to allow said conferee pears to automatically take part in the conference.

5.   The method according to claim 1, wherein if there is a time lag with the mail sender side upon

20 reception of an electronic mail, said conferee peer is activated at a specified time after correction of said time lag so as to allow said conferee peer to automatically take part in a conference.

25 6.   The method according to claim 1, wherein if there is a time lag with the mail sender side upon reception of an electric mail, said conferee peer

automatically corrects the system time of the mail receiver side into the system time of the mail sender side and activates at a specified time so as to allow said conferee peer to automatically take

5   part in a conference.

7.   The method according to claim 1, wherein in said data distribution step, when a conferee peer to be a data requester receives a plurality of

10   addresses of data distributors, said conferee peer searches a data distributor at a shortest time location through a communication test to each data distributor and requests data distribution of said data distributor at a shortest time location.

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8.   The method according to claim 1 or 7, wherein said data distribution step includes allowing conference data as said data to be automatically distributed from said conference host peer to all

20   conferee peers or to a conferee peer that made a request.

9.   The method according to claim 7, wherein said data distribution step includes allowing

25   conference data to be automatically distributed before the conference starts through connection of said conference host peer and said conferee peers.

10.   The method according to claim 1 or 7, wherein said data distribution step includes allowing a conference log of the previous conference to be automatically distributed as said data from said
5   conference host peer to all conferee peers or a conferee peer that made a request.

11.   The method according to claim 10, wherein said data distribution step includes allowing said
10   conference log of the previous conference to be distributed from a certain peer to only conferee peers that took part halfway in the conference.

12.   The method according to claim 1, further
15   comprising:
        an application sharing step which includes sharing any application currently running on a plurality of conferee peers inclusive of said conference host peer while a conference is being
20   held, and free-hand drawing or entering notes onto images generated by said application.

13.   The method according to claim 1, wherein said application sharing step includes uploading images
25   containing free-hand drawing to a Web server so as to allow a browse by the browser.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said application sharing step includes arranging, on a Web screen to be browsed, URLs of conferee peers for automatically taking part in a conference only

5   by clicking once.

15. A collaboration system by a peer-to-peer network, said system comprising:

a mail sending unit which sends an electronic

10   mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

a data distribution unit which searches a

15   conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribution data, and, after distribution of data, informs remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said

20   remaining conferee peers, and searches a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, said data distribution unit repeating the above processes

25   until data distribution completes.

16. A collaboration program allowing a computer

to execute:

a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference
5   host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said
10 conference host peer to distribute data, and, after distribution of data, informing remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searching a conferee peer at a shortest time
15 location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, the above processes being repeated until data distribution completes.

20 17.   A computer readable record medium having thereon stored a program allowing a computer to execute:

a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers,
25 said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

a data distribution step which includes
searching a conferee peer at a shortest time
location through communication tests from said
conference host peer to distribute data, and, after
5   distribution of data, informing remaining conferee
peers that said data distributed conferee peer is
a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and
searching a conferee peer at a shortest time
location through communication tests from said
10   conference host peer and from said mirror to
distribute data, the above processes being repeated
until data distribution completes.